

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented) An ink-jet printing apparatus, comprising:

at least one printhead portion including an underprinting fixer fluid comprising at least one cationic component and at least one printhead portion including an ink composition comprising at least one anionic component;

wherein, when the ink composition is printed on a medium over the fixer fluid printed on the medium, the ink composition and fixer fluid together form an amorphous viscous fluid, the viscous fluid having a viscosity greater than the ink composition.

Claim 2 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the anionic component comprises at least one anionic binder.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the at least one anionic binder comprises polymers having at least one complexing group.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the at least one complexing group is selected from the group consisting of Ethylene Diamine Tetraacetic Acid, Acetyl Acetate Maleic Anhydride, an Acrylate and combinations thereof..

Claim 5 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the polymers comprise styrene.

Claim 6 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the anionic binder comprises hydrolyzed styrene maleic anhydride.

Claim 7 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the anionic component comprises dye having anionic functional groups.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the dyes having anionic functional groups are selected from the group consisting of sulfonated dyes with non-polar groups, dyes with protonatable groups, dyes with carboxylate groups and dyes with phosphonate groups.

Claim 9 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the ink composition further comprises low-molecular weight hydrophilic compounds.

Claim 10 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the low-molecular weight hydrophilic compounds are selected from the group consisting of inorganic salts and lower alcohols.

Claim 11 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the at least one cationic component comprises cationic polymers.

Claim 12 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the cationic polymers are polyelectrolytes selected from the group consisting of $R_1R_2R_3R_4N^+$; $R_1R_2R_3R_4P^+$ and $R_1R_2R_3R_4As^+$, where R can be H, alkyl or other organic substituent.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the polyelectrolytes comprise branched or linear polymer chains.

Claim 14 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the cationic polymers are in solution with non-polymeric cations selected from the group consisting of calcium ions, aluminum ions, barium ions, strontium ions, zinc ions, magnesium ions and titanium ions.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the cationic polymers are tetrasubstituted ammonium salts.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the at least one cationic component comprises non-polymeric cations selected from the group consisting of calcium ions, aluminum ions, barium ions, strontium ions, zinc ions, magnesium ions and titanium ions.

Claims 17-33(Canceled)

Claim 34 (Previously presented) A method of ink-jet printing, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) ejecting at a location on a medium an underprinting fixer

fluid comprising at least one cationic component ;
b) ejecting at the location on the medium an ink composition comprising at least one anionic component ;
wherein the ink composition and the fixer fluid together form an amorphous viscous fluid, the viscous fluid having a viscosity greater than the ink composition.

Claim 35 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the anionic component comprises at least one anionic binder.

Claim 36 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the at least one anionic binder comprises polymers having at least one complexing group.

Claim 37 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 36, wherein the at least one complexing group is selected from the group consisting of Ethylene Diamine Tetraacetic Acid, Acetyl Acetate, Maleic Anhydride, Acrylate and combinations thereof.

Claim 38 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 36, wherein the [branched] polymers comprise styrene.

Claim 39 (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the anionic binder comprises hydrolyzed styrene maleic anhydride.

Claim 40 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the at least one anionic component comprises dye having anionic functional groups.

Claim 41 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein the dyes having anionic functional groups are selected from the group consisting of sulfonated dyes with non-polar groups, dyes with protonatable groups, dyes with carboxylate groups and dyes with phosphonate groups.

Claim 42 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the ink composition further comprises low-molecular weight hydrophilic compounds.

Claim 43 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42, wherein the low-molecular weight hydrophilic compounds are selected from the group consisting of inorganic salts and lower alcohols.